The High Court of Lahore, comprising of a division Bench, headed by Mohammad Qasim Khan J. had issued notice to the Government and the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) to file a reply in the petition challenging Hafiz Saeed’s arrest in the ongoing case against him relating to terror financing. He was arrested on 17th July, 2019 by the Counter-Terrorism Department in the concerned terror financing case and had been detained in the Kot Lakhpat jail in the Lahore under high surveillance and security. The cases have been filed across different cities in Punjab, namely Multan, Lahore and Gujranwala. The Court ordered the filing of the reply within 28th October, 2019. The CTD alleged that they made assets from the funds of terror financing and was accused them of committing offences of terrorist financing and money laundering under the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997. The case has been transferred from the special anti-terror court in Gurjanwala to the High Court of Lahore after the Court felt that the transfer would be a danger to his life.

The Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JUD) chief has been recognised by the UN as a terrorist by the United Nations Security Resolution in the month of December, a decade ago and has been accused of being the brainchild of the Mumbai terror attacks in 2008 that is reported to take at least 166 lives. He is recognised as a global terrorist by the Treasury Department of the United States and had even kept a sum of monetary reward (ten million dollars) for anyone who can provide any information which may lead to his arrest in 2012.

The petition accuses the petitioner, Saeeed and other sixty seven people as being involved in the terrorist financing. His lawyer, AK Dogar contended that all these people are not terrorists and that the petitioner is no way connected to terrorist organisations like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) or Al- Quaida. He prayed to quash the 23 FIRs that have been lodged against his client and the others accused of the same.

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